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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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AIDS FUND CHECK-OFF ON INCOME TAX FORM ESTABLISHED

Secretary of Human Services Philip Johnston, Commissioner of Public Health David Mulligan, and Boston City Councillor David Sondras joined with legislators and AIDS activists today at the Department of Public Health to recognize enactment of legislation that will establish an AIDS fund check-off on the Massachusetts income tax return. The language establishing the fund is part of the tax package signed by Governor Dukakis last week.

The check-off will permit taxpayers to contribute on an annual basis, any amount of money for research, treatment, and education related to AIDS. The fund will be administered by the Department of Public Health with guidance from an AIDS Advisory Board designated by the Commissioner of Public Health.

"Six people become infected with the AIDS virus every day - our existing resources are not adequate to meet the tremendous demand for AIDS education and services," said Secretary Johnston. "This fund is designed to complement, not replace existing local, state, or federal AIDS related funds."

"I would like to applaud the work of many members of the legislature and AIDS advocates who have made this fund a reality," said City Councillor David Sondras. "The taxpayers of Massachusetts will now have the ability to make a direct contribution to the AIDS fight."

David Mulligan, Commissioner of Public Health, recognized the efforts of City Councillor David Sondras on behalf of the fund, and added "Resources to fight AIDS are critically needed - this fund is not the answer to inadequate resources, but it should help - every penny can make a difference. We are hoping that Massachusetts taxpayers will respond generously when it comes time to fill out their 1990 tax returns."

Massachusetts will be the first state in the country to have an AIDS fund check-off option on its state income tax form.

